

REMARKS

5 In an office action mailed June 18, 2003 (paper no. 14), claims 30 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Changes to the drawings and specification were suggested. Amendments have been made to claims 30 and 44 to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 and the suggested drawing changes (which eliminated the need for any changes to the specification) have been provided in this response. All pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

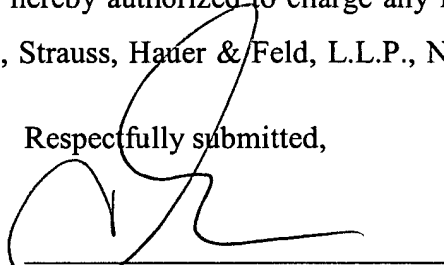
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons readily apparent, Applicants submit that all of the claims now present are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejections and a Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

- 5 If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (214) 969-4669 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

- 10 No additional fee is believed to be required with this response. If any applicable fee or refund has been overlooked, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any refund to the deposit account of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., No. 01-0657.

Respectfully submitted,


Chris J. Rourk
Registration No. 39,348

Date: 9/18/03
AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 688
Dallas, Texas 75313-0688
(214) 969-4669

APPENDIX

Attachments: Replacement sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes